

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

DEPT OF THE TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO COMUSSAGE 7AF

CINCPAC

COAST GUARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 062520

COAST GUARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:MARCH 19 EA PRESS SUMMARY

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1. INDOCHINA

PRES STANDS FIRM ON REQUEST FOR GKR ARMS AID, ACCORDING

SEN HUGH SCOTT (CHITRIB). WH-CONGRESS BATTLE OVER EMERGENCY

MIL AID APPEARS STALEMATED BECAUSE PRES REFUSES AGREE TO CUTOFF DATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE WON'T APPROVE AID WITHOUT IT (NYDN BUREAU). FORD ADVISERS INDICATED MONDAY ADMIN WOULD AGREE TO CUTOFF, BUT ONLY TO GET MEASURE TO HOUSE FLOOR WHERE THEY COULD FIGHT TO DELETE CUTOFF (AP, PHINQ). PRES MADE OPPOSITION KNOWN TO REPUB CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AT MEETING, AFTER WHICH SENIOR HFAC MEMBERS DECIDED NO HOPE OF GETTING COMPROMISE BILL PASSED AND DELAYED UNTIL NEXT TUES RECONSIDERATION OF 82.5 MILLION DOL MIL AID PROPOSAL THAT NARROWLY PASSED SFRC. WITH HFAC SCHEDULED BEGIN EASTER RECESS NEXT WEDS, THIS VIRTUALLY ENDS CHANCE FOR FLOOR FIGHT UNTIL NEXT MONTH. DURING WH MEETING, PRES REPORTED CONCERNED ABOUT LOW KHMER MORALE, AND RTG STATEMENTS RE US WITHDRAWAL AND PHILS' MARCOS ON REASSESSMENT OF POSITION VIS-A-VIS US (REUTER, GLOBE).

NYT'S FINNEY QUOTES CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THAT ONLY HOPE FOR MORE GKR MIL AID RESTS UPON PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT TO END AID JUNE 30; NOTES FOR MOMENT FORD UNWILLING GIVE SUCH COMMITMENT. SUN'S TREWHITT SEES ADMIN'S CURRENT EFFORT AS LAST-DITCH STRATEGY BASED ON CURRENT STATUS OF GKR AID LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS. COMMENTS THAT MANY ANALYSTS BELIEVE PP DEFENSES WILL COLLAPSE BEFORE AMMO SUPPLIES RUN OUT UNDER CURRENT PROGRAMS. SAYS MANY OUTSIDE OBSERVERS ASSUME CURRENT MANEUVERING BEING CARRIED OUT WITH EYE TO ASSIGNING ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY, AS MUCH AS FOR IMPACT ON CAMBODIA. WP'S LYONS STATES SUPPORTERS OF SOME AID HOPED IF PRES ACCEPTED CUTOFF, COULD SWITCH ENOUGH HFAC VOTES TO GET COMPROMISE PASSED. SUGGESTS REASON HFAC WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL TUES IS REP MORGAN DESIRE SENATE ACT FIRST: IF AID KILLED THERE, HOUSE NEED NOT ACT ON IT. QUOTES MORGAN THAT MUCH OF EMERGENCY GONE WITH ADMIN'S DISCOVERY OF EXTRA 21.5 MILLION FOR AMMO FOR GKR, AND THIS ALSO "RAISED SOME QUESTION" ABOUT ADMIN'S CREDIBILITY. MANSFIELD SAID GKR AID BILL IN "GREAT DIFFICULTIES" IN SENATE.  
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DOD CONTINUES SHIP GKR AMMO FROM 21.5 MILLION OF WHAT IT CALLS "UNSPENT 1974 FUNDS," OVER SFRC OBJECTIONS. DOS, DOD DEFEND LEGALITY OF ACTION. SFRC'S PEARSON ASKED GAO MAKE URGENT REVIEW OF MATTER. LAT'S JOHNSTON (3/18) NOTES ADMIN-SFRC CLASH ON USE OF EXTRA MONEY. BELIEVES ADMIN CASE NOT HELPED BY SECRECY THAT HAS SHROUDED BOOKKEEPING QUESTION, SINCE DOD AUDIT THAT TURNED FUNDS UP WAS MADE 10 MONTHS AGO BUT CONGRESS NOT TOLD BEFORE MONDAY'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

UNICEF ANNOUNCES MASSIVE FOOD/MEDICAL SUPPLIES AIRLIFT LAUNCHED FOR 94,000 PP CHILDREN, WITH FIRST COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON AND BANGKOK OVER WEEKEND. ADDED THAT NEGOTIATING WITH KHMER REBELS THROUGH REPS IN

HANOI TO AID CHILDREN IN INSURGENT AREAS. AGENCY'S OBJECT IS TO MAINTAIN RELIEF FUNCTIONS IN CAMBODIA AFTER COMPLETE INSURGENT TAKEOVER, ACCORDING US SOURCES. UNICEF CONTACTS IN HANOI WERE CONCURRENT WITH WALDHEIM'S VAIN ATTEMPT STIMULATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REBELS AND GKR ON POLITICAL COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. UNICEF WITH WHO HELPING ESTABLISH PP CHILD-HEALTH CLINICS; OVER 40 OFFICIALS FROM 11 UN AGENCIES REMAIN IN PP (WP FROM UN).

SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ ARRIVES IN BANGKOK EN ROUTE TO EUROPE FOR TREATMENT OF DIABETIC CONDITION (WP); TELLS PRESS EXPECTS SPEND WEEK IN THAILAND BEFORE GOING TO FRANCE (NYT SPECIAL).

LAT'S LESLIE IN PP (3/18) DESCRIBES EVACUATION OF MANY FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF AUSSIE, SINGAPORE, AND ISRAELI EMBASSY STAFFS. NOTES FOREIGN OFFICIALS FEAR CONGRESS "NO" VOTE ON GKR AID MIGHT PRECIPITATE FANK COLLAPSE OR RESULT IN HOSTILITY DIRECTED AT AMERICANS. SAYS FRENCH DEPARTURE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR RUMORS OF IMPENDING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE TO END WAR THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE FRENCH HAVE CONTACTS WITH SIHANOUK. WP REPORTS CRS OFFICIALS HAVE SCALED-DOWN EVACUATION PLANS, WILL NOW SEND 8 OUT OF PP INSTEAD OF 19. AP (SUN) SAYS CASUAL REMARK TO CRS DIRECTOR BY AMB DEAN WAS INTERPRETED AS SUGGESTION STAFFERS SHOULD LEAVE. UNCLASSIFIED

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REBELS RAIN ROCKETS ON GKR POSITIONS NEAR PP, PROBE CITY'S DEFENSES. BARRAGE APPARENTLY TIMED FOR ANNIVERSARY OF SIHANOUK OVERTHROW (UPI, NYDN). FIERCE FIGHT RAGES ON MEKONG BANK OPPOSITE PP. REBELS ASSAULT POSITION ON MEKONG BANK 3 MILES NE OF PP; FANK REPELLED ATTACKS, BUT DOUBTFUL IF IT CAN HOLD LONG. FANK REPORTED MAKING PROGRESS IN DRIVE 6 MILES NW OF PP AIRFIELD IN EFFORT TO DRIVE REBELS OUT OF ROCKET RANGE. US AIRLIFT FUNCTIONED WITHOUT INCIDENT. REBELS CONTINUE HAMMERING AT NEAK LUONG. NO PROGRESS REPORTED IN LONG BORET'S EFFORT TO FORM NEW GOVT; OBSERVERS SAY CABINET WOULD BE FORMED ONLY AFTER CONGRESS VOTES ON GKR EXTRA MIL AID (AP, SUN; WP). NYT'S ANDELMAN IN PP DESCRIBES DESPAIR AND HUNGER GRIPPING CITY.

SUN FROM HK RETELLS SIHANOUK'S HISTORY IN PEKING SINCE 1970, DESCRIBES FORMATION OF GOVT-IN-EXILE WITH POWER IN HANDS OF KHIEU SAMPHAN. NOTES PRINCE LOOKING FORWARD RETURNING CAMBODIA AS HEAD OF STATE BUT ADMITS WILL NEVER REGAIN ABSOLUTE POWER. GIVES SOME BIODATA ON KHIEU SAMPHAN.

NESSEN SAYS PRES CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTED GVN PULLOUT FROM 3 HIGHLANDS PROVS; ADDS GVN SUFFERS FROM LACK

OF GUARANTEED AMMO SUPPLIES, ONE REASON THEY HAVE  
FALLEN BACK IN SOME PLACES. IN REPLY TO QUESTION  
WHETHER WH MEANT BLAME CONGRESS IF AID NOT AUTHORIZED  
AND SVN SUFFERED FURTHER DEFEATS, SAYS NO ONE "ASSIGNING  
BLAME" (UPI, NYT).

MOST PAPERS GIVE PROMINENT PLAY TO FLIGHT OF REFUGEES  
FROM KONTUM, PLEIKU, DARLAC. UPI DESCRIBES FLIGHT  
TOWARD SEA IN RETREAT THAT HIGH GOVT SOURCES SAID  
WAS NEGOTIATED BY THIEU AND VC. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES  
CALL IT WORST SETBACK FOR ANTI-COMMUNISTS IN INDOCHINA  
SINCE DIEN BIEN PHU. MANY AS 250,000 OF ESTIMATED

550,000 REPORTED ON ROADS IN MILES-LONG CONVOY. SOURCES  
SAY US INFORMED OF DEAL IN TIME TO MOVE AMCITS OUT OF  
PLEIKU AND KONTUM; 9 AMERICANS REPORTEDLY CAPTURED  
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IN BAN ME THUOT. WITNESSES FROM PLEIKU REPORT CITY  
IN FLAMES AND AMMO DUMPS EXPLODING; MANY REFUGEES WITHOUT  
WATER WHO MAY DIE ON ROAD, HOSPITAL PATIENTS ABANDONED,  
AND NO ORGANIZATION SET UP FOR EVACUATION (NYDN). AP  
SAIGON REPORTS US EMBASSY DENIAL THIEU MADE DEAL TO HAND  
OVER HIGHLANDS IN RETURN FOR SAFE PASSAGE FOR 250,000  
RESIDENTS OF AREA. GVN ORDERS DIVISION FROM DA NANG  
TO SAIGON TO BOLSTER DEFENSES AS SERIES OF ASSAULTS  
REPORTED IN PROVS AROUND CAPITAL. SOURCES SAY COMMUNIST  
DEMAND TO CLEAR OUT OF PLEIKU WITHIN 3 DAYS ACCEPTED BY  
GVN SUNDAY; VC THEN ORDERED KONTUM, DALAT RESIDENTS LEAVE  
ALSO. "INCREDIBLE" CONVOY LEFT PLEIKU FOR CHEO REO,  
60 MILES AWAY, AND ON TO TUY HOA ON COAST (UPI CHITRIB,  
GLOBE).

GVN FORCES CONTINUE PULL-OUT OF KONTUM, PLEIKU, DARLAC  
BASES. SAIGON SPOKESMAN ACKNOWLEDGES RAPIDLY DETERIORAT-  
ING SITUATION IN LONG KHANH PROV NEAR SAIGON (PHINQ). US  
MEDICAL MISSIONARY REFUSED EVACUATION, STAYED WITH  
PATIENTS IN KONTUM, ACCORDING EMBASSY SPOKESMAN.  
SURVIVING GVN UNITS FROM BAN ME THUOT TRYING FIGHT  
WAY TO COAST. MONTAGNARDS IN ABANDONED PROVINCES  
REPORTEDLY DRIFTING INTO JUNGLE. ANALYST SAYS NVA  
CAPTURE OF HIGHLANDS NOT ECONOMICALLY INCONSIDERABLE,  
BUT NOT SAME AS GRABBING CHUNK OF DELTA; ADDS NO WAY  
TO JUDGE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF LOSS. RELIABLE  
SOURCES STATE GVN EMPHASIS NOW WILL BE ON HOLDING  
HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS; MAY ALSO GIVE UP QUANG DUC.  
ELEVEN US CONTRACT EMPLOYEES OF LEAR SIEGLER,  
PERFORMING AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AT BIEN HOA, INJURED  
WHEN EXPLOSIVE THROWN AT BUS (WP). GVN COMMAND SAYS  
NVA PRESSING ON 2 DISTRICT TOWNS WITHIN 50 MILES OF  
SAIGON, AS MIL SITUATION IN REGION AROUND CAPITAL  
WORSENS. SVN DECISION TO ABANDON HIGHLANDS PROVS

REPORTEDLY CAME AFTER NVA ISOLATED PLEIKU, KONTUM AND  
BEGAN MASSIVE BUILDUP. US OFFICIAL SAID WAS QUESTION  
OF WHICH BEST: GETTING CHEWED UP BECAUSE YOU CAN'T  
MOVE TROOPS AND SUPPLIES FAST ENOUGH, OR MOVING INTO  
MORE DEFENSIBLE POSITION (AP, SUN).

GVN ABANDONS CENTRAL HIGHLANDS THAT US TROOPS DIED  
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DEFENDING, COMMUNISTS HAVE INITIATIVE AND C-F  
IN SHAMBLES (UPI, GLOBE). NYT'S WEINRAUB IN SAIGON  
DESCRIBES FLIGHT OF REFUGEES FROM HIGHLANDS, TELLS  
STORY OF ESCAPE BY SOME. MALCOLM BROWNE (NYT) FROM  
SAIGON NOTES COMMUNISTS POISED TO ENTER HUGE,

ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT AREA IN HIGHLANDS THEY HAD  
NEVER BEFORE ENTIRELY CONQUERED. GVN DOESN'T  
CONCEDE 3 PROVS BEING ABANDONED, SAYS SOME FORCES  
WITHDRAWING FOR TACTICAL REASONS. NVA SAIGON SPOKESMAN  
DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF AMCITS IN BAN ME THUOT WHEN IT  
FELL. QUOTES KNOWLEDGEABLE MIL SOURCE THAT HE KNOWS  
OF NO COMMUNIST ACTION AGAINST REFUGEES STREAMING  
OUT OF HIGHLANDS, BUT THAT MAY BE COMING SINCE COMMUNISTS  
DON'T WANT DEPOPULATED REGIONS.

## 2. CHINA

REUTER (CSM) CITES REPORTS THAT BIGGEST GROUP OF  
WESTERN TOURISTS TO ENTER PRC HAS VISITED FACTORIES,  
SCHOOLS, COMMUNES AROUND CANTON.

REUTER'S GRIFFITHS REPORTS NCNA ANNOUNCEMENT PRC  
IS RELEASING 293 "WAR CRIMINALS" -- ALMOST ALL  
KUOMINTANG ADHERENTS -- IS BEING INTERPRETED IN  
PEKING AS NEW INITIATIVE ON TAIWAN PROBLEM.  
ANNOUNCEMENT ACCOMPANIED BY PEKING'S MOST MODERATE  
STATEMENT YET ON TAIWAN ISSUE, SEEN BY OBSERVERS  
AS CLEAR INDICATION PRC HOPES FOR PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED  
RETURN OF ISLAND TO MAINLAND; ALSO INTERPRETED AS MOVE  
TO REASSURE PRES FORD, PLANNING PRC VISIT THIS AUTUMN.  
ACCORDING NCNA, MEMBERS OF FREED GROUP WHO WISH VISIT  
TAIWAN WILL RECEIVE ALL FACILITIES AND BE WELCOMED  
BACK IF DESIRING RETURN.

PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER HUA'S STATEMENT SEEN BY SOME  
OBSERVERS AS UNUSUALLY CONCILIATORY MOVE AND CHANGE  
IN PSB IMAGE. OBSERVERS NOTE FORMULA -- "WE ARE  
DETERMINED TO LIBERATE TAIWAN" -- INVARIABLY USED UP  
TO NOW IN PEKING'S OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON TAIWAN  
QUESTION, WAS ABSENT FROM NEW ANNOUNCEMENT, SIGNIFYING  
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THAT EMPHASIS IS NOW FIRMLY ON RECONCILIATION, NEGOTIATION, RATHER THAN ARMED CONFLICT.

TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S BURNS, IN PEKING, SEES DEATH OF MALE MUSK-OXEN "MILTON," GIVEN PRC BY US, RAISING QUESTION WHETHER US WILL REPLACE IT. SAYS IF THERE IS PRECEDENT, IT MAY BE ONE CHINESE ESTABLISHED WHEN THEY REPLACED ONE OF GIFT PANDAS THAT DIED LAST YEAR IN PARIS ZOO (CSM). BURNS ADDS THAT SECOND OF US GIFT ANIMALS IS APPARENTLY WELL; NOTES THAT IN LINE WITH PEKING ZOO POLICY, NOTHING ON ENCLOSURE OR IN ZOO LITERATURE IDENTIFIES HER AS US GIFT (CHITRIB).

### 3. JAPAN

MIKI TUESDAY ASKED MIYAZAWA VISIT US SOON FOR TALKS WITH HAK (REUTER, CHITRIB).

JDA SAYS INFLATION FORCES CUTBACK IN FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE BUILDUP (REUTER, CSM).

JOC (LONDON) CITES AGRA EUROPE REPORT GOJ ADVISORY COMMITTEE URGES REDUCTION OF JAPAN'S DEPENDENCE ON AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS, AND INCREASE IN FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY FROM PRESENT 71 PERCENT TO 75 PERCENT BY 1985.

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO NOTES 17 GUBERNATORIAL RACES APRIL 13, AND NATIONWIDE MAYORALTY ELECTIONS TWO WEEKS LATER, VIEWED AS MIKI'S FIRST SERIOUS ELECTORAL TEST. SAYS LIVELIEST CONTESTS EXPECTED IN TOKYO, OSAKA, WHERE LEFTISTS STRONG AND TANAKA SCANDAL HAD BIGGEST IMPACT.

SEIDEN ALSO NOTED (3/16) SUDDEN RETURN TO FRONT PAGES LAST WEEK OF FANATIC LEFT-WING GUERRILLA MOVEMENT, AS SWEDEN DEPORTED TWO ALLEGED RED ARMY MEMBERS AND LEADER OF ANOTHER RADICAL FACTION FOUND MURDERED IN HIS APARTMENT. INTERVIEWED CHUKAKU RADICAL FACTION LEADER IN "FORTRESS-LIKE" HEADQUARTERS -- MAKOTO MATSUO, SON OF MIDDLE CLASS COLLEGE PROFESSOR ENROLLED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAST EIGHT YEARS AT KYOTO U, WHO CLAIMS TO BE "FULL-TIME REVOLUTIONARY." QUOTES MATSUO BELIEF VICTORY IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR COMES ONLY "AFTER MURDERING EVERY SINGLE ENEMY."

JOC (TOKYO) CITES MITI REPORT THAT MOST INDUSTRIAL LEADERS BELIEVE ECONOMY WILL "BOTTOM OUT" IN FIRST

QUARTER NEW JFY THAT BEGINS APRIL, PROVIDED THEY CONTINUE KEEP PRODUCTION 40-50 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL LEVEL. IN RELEASING REPORT MIN KOMOTO WARNED NO REASON FOR OPTIMISM, AND SLUMP STILL SEVERE.

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO REVIEWS PREPARATION FOR ALL JAPAN SEAMEN'S UNION STRIKE, IN EVENT CURRENT CONTRACT TALKS BREAK DOWN.

#### 4. THAILAND

REUTER (BANGKOK) NOTES KUKRIT SEEKS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY. AMONG PLEDGES IN POLICY STATEMENT ARE FREE EDUCATION, FREE MEDICAL CARE FOR

POOR, MINIMUM MONTHLY WAGE OF 1,000 BAHT (46 DOLS). IN ASSEMBLY DEBATE SENI CRITICIZED PLEDGES AS "UNREALISTIC," BUT KUKRIT VOICED CERTAINTY "WE CAN MAKE THE DREAMS COME TRUE."

FM SAYS PLAN TO NORMALIZE THAI RELATIONS WITH CHINA BASED ON EVALUATION US INFLUENCE IN ASIA WANING (WSJ, WP).

UCC TOLD RTG PLANS REVOKE SEVEN OFFSHORE TIN MINING LEASES HELD BY TEMCO, IN WHICH FIRM HAS 46 PERCENT SHARE. NETHERLANDS BILLITON HOLDS 46 PERCENT, THAIS 8 PERCENT (WSJ).

WP'S MARDER NOTES RTG CHARGE TUESDAY TEMCO CONCESSION OBTAINED THROUGH "SURREPTITIOUS AND CORRUPT METHODS" FROM FORMER MILITARY REGIME. SOURCES NOTE INVESTMENT SCALE MINIMAL, UNDER 20 MILLION DOLS, BUT MARDER VIEWS MOVE AS FURTHER SIGN OF GROWING THAI NATIONALISM, UNCLASSIFIED

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PLUS REACTION AGAINST DEALS MADE BY MILITARY REGIME THAT WORKED CLOSELY WITH US FOR YEARS. ADDS USG, UCC TRIED FORESTALL CANCELLATION.

CSM'S HALVERSON IN WASHINGTON THINKS POSSIBLE FORCED WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM THAILAND MAY BOLSTER DOD CASE FOR STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF US BASES IN MID-PACIFIC, JAPAN. NOTES "DEEPENING" DOD CONCERN THAI MOVE COULD INTENSIFY CALL FOR BROADER PULL-BACK FROM PACIFIC AS TIDE OF "ISOLATIONISM" RISES IN CONGRESS. ADDS QUESTION ARISES HOW LONG US FORCES COULD REMAIN IN JAPAN, GIVEN PACIFIST FEELING THERE, INCREASED LINKS WITH THIRD WORLD, AND "STRONG RESERVATIONS" ABOUT USE OF TERRITORY AS "STAGING BASE" FOR US MILITARY ACTION ELSEWHERE IN ASIA (USIA WIRELESS FILE 3/19).

5. KOREA

REUTER (SEOUL) REPORTS OPPOSITION SEIZED SPEAKER'S ROSTRUM IN NATL ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY TO BLOCK BILL FORBIDDING KOREANS DEFAME SK IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. SEIZURE FOLLOWED OVERNIGHT SIT-IN TO BLOCK DEBATE. DRP POLICY-MAKER PARK JOONG KYU SAID TUESDAY BILL WOULD PASS CURRENT EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, BUT KIM YONG SAM PLEDGED BLOCK PASSAGE OF BILL "DESIGNED TO GAG THE OPPOSITION AND PEOPLE AT HOME AND ABROAD."

6. PORTUGUESE TIMOR

GOVERNOR COL PIRES TELLS GOI OFFICIALS TIMOR PEOPLE WILL HAVE FREEDOM DECIDE OWN DESTINY (WP).

7. PHILIPPINES

SOVIET DELEGATE CHARGES BOBBYFISCHER DEMANDS "UNJUSTIFIABLE" AT START THREE-DAY MEETING CALLED BY INTL CHESS FEDERATION IN BERGEN AAN ZEE, NETHERLANDS, TO TRY SALVAGE FISCHER-KARPOV CHESS MATCH IN MANILA.

8. AUSTRALIA  
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JOC (SYDNEY) SAYS AUSSIE MEAT PRODUCERS REQUEST GOA PROBE WHETHER CHEAP MEAT THEY EXPORT TO US PROCESSED AND SOLD AT HIGHER PRICE TO AUSTRALIA'S TRADITIONAL CUSTOMERS.

CSM (SYDNEY) SAYS SOUTH AUSTRALIA PM DUNSTAN GIVES IN, AGREES RETAIN USE OF MISS OR MRS IN OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO WOMEN WHO OBJECT USE OF MS.

9. NEW ZEALAND

JOC (LONDON) CITES AGRA EUROPE REPORT NZ PROMOTING BUTTER, CHEESE EXPORTS TO NAMERICA, JAPAN.

10. GENERAL

SOVIET TEST-FIRED SS-18 ICBM ABOUT 7,800 MILES INTO SOUTH PACIFIC TUESDAY NIGHT, ACCORDING DOD. SINGLE-WAR-HEAD MISSILE LAUNCHED FROM TYURATUM TO POINT 1,700 MILES SOUTH OF HAWAII (AP, NYDN).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

11. INDOCHINA



PHINQ WOULD BE "INTERESTED TO LEARN WHAT THE MOTIVES REALLY WERE" BEHIND DOD'S DISCOVERY OF 21.5 MILLION DOLS WHICH "UNFORTUNATELY" WILL BE USED FOR INDOCHINA ARMS. SAYS CONTRARY TO PRES FORD'S REMARKS AT NOTRE DAME U, HEART OF ISSUE IS NOT "NATIONAL SECURITY," BUT NATIONAL DIGNITY AND "ACCEPTANCE OF HISTORY'S TOUGH JUSTICE THAT OUR (INDOCHINA) ADVENTURE HAS BEEN WRONG" FROM BEGINNING. INSISTS DANGER NOT RETURN TO 1930'S "INTROVERSION" BUT TO INTERVENTION OF 60S, EARLY 70S; URGES CONGRESS VOTE DOWN SUPPLEMENTARY MIL AID REQUESTS.

CDN (MAR 10) FEELS CONGRESS, RATHER THAN ENDORSING CAMBODIA EMERGENCY MIL AID, SHOULD DESIGNATE FUNDS FOR PURELY HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES; "HELP ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING, BUT CUT OFF THE INSTRUMENTS OF KILLING."  
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GLOBE TAKES ISSUE WITH PRES FORD'S "CURRENT RENEWAL" OF DOMINO THEORY; ARGUES DOMINOES WON'T FALL AT ALL IF THEY REST FLAT -- ON SOLID, POPULAR BASE. MAINTAINS NOT ENOUGH SIMPLY TO END MIL AID AND THUS END FIGHTING, BUT AMERICANS SHOULD REALIZE US INCURRED OBLIGATION TO HELP ECONOMICALLY ALL VIETNAMESE WHOSE COUNTRY "WE HAVE DEVASTATED."

STLP-D (MAR 9) COMPLAINED FORD ADMIN HAS ALLOWED ITSELF BECOME CAPTIVE OF NIXON-HAK "DEMONSTRABLY DECEITFUL AND TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE" CAMBODIA POLICY. INFUSION OF STILL MORE US MIL AID WILL NOT PREVENT BLOODBATH, ONLY PROLONG BLOODBATH OF WAR ALREADY OCCURRING.

GARRY WILLS (PHINQ) SEES TALK OF PP BLOODBATH OR OVERTURES TOWARD SIHANOUK AS "LAST-MINUTE PLOYS" AIMED AT "PULLING OUT WHILE STAYING IN." DECLARES WAY OUT OF INDOCHINA IS "GET OUT. NOW."

BUT ON SAME PAGE, WM RUSHER WARNS US' FALL WILL GROW, AS CAMBODIA'S HAS, OUT OF TOTAL DEFECT OF WILL. DOUBTS WILL TO USE OUR WEAPONS IN OWN DEFENSE, ANY MORE THAN IN CAMBODIA'S, EXISTS ANY LONGER.

SUN SAYS PRES FORD'S ENDORSEMENT OF DOMINO THEORY APPEARS TO CONFLICT WITH SVN'S DECISION TO ABANDON HIGH-LAND PROVINCES. THE LATTER SHOWS GVN DOES NOT BELIEVE LOSS OF THESE PROVINCES WILL TOPPLE ITS GOVT. THIS GVN POLICY WILL MAKE FUTURE DEFENSE OF COUNTRY MORE DIFFICULT. HARD TO SEE HOW HUE COULD BE DEFENDED. PROBABLE RESULT WILL BE WITHDRAWAL TO DELTA AND SAIGON AREA WHICH WOULD BE TOUGHER DOMINO TO TOPPLE.

PETER KUMPA IN BALT SUN (3/16) RECOUNTS HISTORY

OF CAMB SINCE OVERTHROW OF SIHANOUK IN 1969.  
DESCRIBES USE OF CAMB BY NVN AND SIHANOUK'S FIGHT  
AGAINST KHMER ROUGE. DENIES ANY US INVOLVEMENT  
IN OVERTHROW. NVN REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE WITH CAMBS  
RE USE OF BORDER AREAS AND FIGHTING BETWEEN NVN  
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AND CAMBS LED TO CAMB'S ENTRANCE INTO THE WAR,  
RATHER THAN US INCURSION. ENDS BY QUOTING  
CAMBODIAN WHO SAYS IF COUNTRY IS LOST, AT LEAST IT  
IS GOING DOWN FIGHTING (UNLIKE SITUATION UNDER  
SIHANOUK).

CROSBY NOYES IN STAR-NEWS (3/18) SAYS AT TIME OF  
SIHANOUK DOWNFALL US HAD BEEN LOOKING KINDLY UPON  
HIM. HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SIHANOUK WILL PLAY ANY  
SIGNIFICANT ROLE IF REDS WIN. SEN. MANSFIELD WOULD  
PROBABLY BE WILLING TO PROVIDE AID TO A COMMUNIST  
CAMBODIA.

CSM SAYS IT IS HEARTRENDING TO WATCH DETERIORATING  
SITUATION IN INDOCHINA. PSYCHOLOGICALLY IF NOT  
POLITICALLY COMMUNISTS WINNING. US EFFORTS SHOULD  
BE DEVOTED TO PRESSING FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN  
SVN IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARIS AGREEMENT. AIM SHOULD  
BE EVENTUAL COALITION GOVERNMENT. AMERICA HAS  
RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE AID WHILE SEEKING CONSTRUCTIVE  
POLITICAL SOLUTION (SEE WIRELESS FILE).

AP PIECE IN NYT SAYS US CONCERN FOR VN HIGHLANDS  
STARTED OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR. CITES PERSISTENT  
TRIBAL UNWILLINGNESS TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE SVN.

BALT SUN (3/16) SAYS WHILE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRA-  
TIONS HAVE HAD COMPASSION FOR MIA FAMILIES THEY SHOULD  
NOT PAY THE ESCALATING NVN PRICE FOR IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE PARIS ACCORDS. CITES NVN'S "CALLOUS MOCKERY"  
OF ACCORDS.

MICHAEL GETLER IN POST SAYS NOW APPARENT IN WASHINGTON  
THAT NVN OFFENSIVE MUCH GREATER THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED.  
US ANALYSTS BELIEVE THIEU MADE BEST DECISION POSSIBLE  
IN ABANDONING HIGHLANDS AND ADOPTING COASTAL ENCLAVE  
POLICY. HUE LIKELY NEXT TARGET. ADDITIONAL MOVEMENTS  
SOUTH OF NVN RESERVE DIVISIONS LIKELY. TAY NINH BATTLE  
SHAPING UP WHICH COULD LEAD TO POLITICAL UNRAVELLING  
IN SAIGON. BENEFITS OF NEW SVN POLICY ARE SHORTER SUPPLY  
LINE.  
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12. THAILAND

SUN (3/16) STATES NOBODY MORE "GUNG-HO" THAN THAIS DURING HEIGHT OF US WAR EFFORT IN SEA, IN WHICH RTG AIR BASES PLAYED MAJOR ROLE. BUT THAIS NO LONGER TAKE US COMMITMENT TO INDOCHINA SERIOUSLY, GIVEN "UNDEPENDABLE SPINELESSNESS" OF CONGRESS THAT BALKS AT GIVING 220 MILLION DOLS ADMIN SAYS NEEDED TO PREVENT CAMBODIA'S FALL. THUS, NOT SURPRISING THAIS PERCEIVE US PRESENCE AS PROVOCATION RATHER THAN PROTECTION AGAINST AGGRESSIVE NEIGHBORS, AND ASK WE LEAVE. WITH KEEN NOSE FOR DIRECTION POLITICAL WINDS

BLOW, THAIS FEEL US INFLUENCE WANING IN SEA -- AND THEY ARE RIGHT. BUT EACH NATION MUST LOOK TO OWN SECURITY, AND WE CAN ONLY COMPLY WITH THEIR REQUEST. AS WE PART FROM FRIENDS AND ALLIES WHO TROD DIFFICULT PATH WITH US, SUN SUGGESTS WE CAN ONLY SAY WE UNDERSTAND, AND WISH THAIS WELL.

13. PHILIPPINES

CDN'S BEECH INTERVIEWS ARCHBISHOP JAIME SIN IN MANILA, CALLS HIM "CHAMPION OF FREEDOM" WHO BELIEVES "CHURCH IS NOT UNDER MARTIAL LAW." DESCRIBES HOW IN PAST FIVE MONTHS SIN ZEROED IN ON "NEW SOCIETY" ABUSES: DETENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, MILITARY BRUTALITY, TRAVEL BAN AND CITIZEN'S ASSEMBLY SYSTEM OF VOTING, THAT HE LABELS "SIN AGAINST DEMOCRACY." SIN WON MANY VICTORIES, BUT NOT SEEKING CONFRONTATION WITH MARCOS, IF CAN BE AVOIDED WITHOUT COMPROMISING MORAL ISSUES. WHILE SOME ACTIVIST PRIESTS THINK MARCOS CAN DO NO GOOD, SIN SAYS, "I DON'T ACCEPT THAT. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE (MARCOS) IS FAR FROM PERFECT."

BEECH ALSO NOTES HALF PHILS' RC PRIESTS FOREIGNERS, MANY IRISH-AMERICAN. RECALLS AMERICANS WERE FIRST TO IDENTIFY WITH MASSES 25 YEARS AGO; SOME PERSECUTED, LIKE REV EDWARD GERLOCK WHO THREATENED WITH DEPORTATION BUT GOT OFF WITH THREE YEARS PROBATION FOR "KNOWN UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTIVIST SYMPATHIES." SOME PRIESTS SO POLITICIZED IN STRUGGLE AGAINST SOCIAL INJUSTICE THEY ALLY WITH MAOIST FILIPPINE CP AS "ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE SYSTEM."

14. JAPAN

WP'S EGAN (IN PHINQ) EXAMINES EXPERIMENT THAT TRANSPLANTED JAPANESE-STYLE MANAGEMENT TO UNLIKELY SETTING IN MACON, GEORGIA, WHERE WORLD'S LARGEST ZIPPER MAKER, JAPAN'S YKK INDUSTRIES, HAS 15 MILLION DOL AUTOMATED PLANT RUN

BY 100 AMERICANS AND DOZEN JAPANESE EMPLOYEES. IN FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONS, FIRM TRIED IMBUE AMERICANS WITH JAPANESE CORPORATE VALUES -- STRONG COMPANY LOYALTY, PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP, HIGH PRODUCTIVITY. ALTHOUGH STILL EARLY, EGAN FINDS AMERICANS SEEM RESPOND FAVORABLY TO SYSTEM; QUOTES ONE WORKER SAYING "JAPANESE HAVE SOMETHING OVER AMERICANS IN HANDLING PEOPLE."

15. PACIFIC ISLANDS

WP (3/15) FINDS IT "FLATTERING" MARIANAS WISH JOIN US AS COMMONWEALTH, BUT "SOMEWHAT DISCOMFORTING"

THAT WE WOULD FASTEN PERMANENT GRIP ON SPARSELY PEOPLED FOREIGN LAND AT MOMENT US RETREATING FROM "EMPIRE." SUGGESTS TIME FOR BROADER INSPECTION OF MICRONESIAN FUTURE ON COMPREHENSIVE BASIS, AND CONGRESS SHOULD SATISFY SELF NO WAY US CAN DISCHARGE MICRONESIA RESPONSIBILITY THAN NEGOTIATE DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT STATUS AGREEMENTS SHORT OF INDEPENDENCE. ASSERTS DOD BASE PLANS "MUST BE PUT IN THE DEEP FREEZE" IF ISLANDS TO BE PUSHED TOWARD CIVILIAN USE WITH MINIMUM DEPENDENCE ON US SUBSIDIES; AND DECLARATION OF "SELF-NEUTRALIZATION" THROUGH UN MIGHT SERVE EVERYONE'S INTERESTS WELL. RECOMMENDS PRES CONSULT CONGRESS FULLY ON OVERALL MICRONESIAN POLICY. IF US ACQUIRED ISLANDS "BY HISTORICAL ACCIDENT, THEN IT MUST HENCEFORTH MANAGE THEM -- PERHAPS DISPOSE OF THEM -- BY DESIGN." INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.  
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